



United States Department of Agriculture

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# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **NRCS Celebrates American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month, Unveils 2016 Poster**

**STILLWATER, Okla., Oct. 20, 2016**—November is American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) Heritage Month, and is a time to recognize the cultures, traditions and histories of Native people. Each year, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) works with Native American tribes to create the AIAN Heritage Month poster to celebrate the contributions of Native Americans to our nation and history.

This year's poster theme is "The Creator of the Land 'Napi'," and features creation stories of the Blackfeet and Chippewa Cree Tribes of Montana. The poster is available for download on the [NRCS Oklahoma website](#), and prints may be ordered from the [NRCS Distribution Center](#).

"We're very pleased to share this beautiful poster with the public," said Dr. Carol Crouch, NRCS Tribal Liaison for Oklahoma. "Creation stories are a unifying foundation for many cultures, including those of the Blackfeet and Chippewa Cree Tribes. We hope Oklahoman's will appreciate this unique story and artwork, and take time in November to reflect on the contributions of Native American's to our state and nation."

Art for the poster was created by Theodore M. Koop of the Chippewa Cree Tribe, and the accompanying story was told by George Bird Grinnell, famed conservationist and student of Native American culture. The poster and story have been reviewed by Blackfeet Tribal Elders.

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